Ministries concerned and other stakeholders. As such, it is difficult to indicate the time frame by which the action plan will be finalized.

Differences between Government and MCI

2645. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major points of differences between Government and the Medical Council of India as widely reported in the press;

(b) to what extent Government have made efforts to whittle down the differences and organize a working relationship with the Medical Council of India; and

(c) the steps proposed to evolve a clear policy on medical education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Of late, the Medical Council of India, which is a statutory body functioning under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in the Government, has been construing any policy direction issued by the Government in public interest, as infringement of its autonomy. In order to ensure a balance between autonomy and accountability, the Government has introduced the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the Parliament, when enacted will empower the Government to issue directions to the Council on policy issues and also to take appropriate steps in case such directions are not implemented. Modification of the existing policy on medical education is an on going process.

Hepatitis-B and other communicable diseases

2646. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Hepatitis-B virus (HBV) poses a far greater threat than the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);

(b) if so, whether there are some more fatal diseases like Japanese encephalitis, dengue, typhoid, polio, dysentery, filariases, kala-azar, etc.; and